

My colleagues heard that Medicare was at a \$270 billion cut. Yet it has gone from \$4,800 per year to \$6,700 per year with more people in the system in 7 years, an increase. Plus it has a lockbox provision so any savings goes right back into providing more health care and not for tax breaks for the rich like we would hear some other people allegedly saying.

And tax breaks for the rich; let us talk about that. When he knows that women who have three children are driving to work this morning so they can provide for those children and the tax breaks, I want that young woman to know that she will get \$1,500, \$1,500, of a tax break. She is not rich, she is poor.

So where is the credibility? Listen, Jay. The truth is that we are going to balance the budget to preserve a future for the children. We are going to preserve and protect Medicare. We are going to reform welfare, requiring work, bringing the work ethic back in, and we are going to give tax breaks to families, all under the 7-year balanced budget Reconciliation Act.

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SUPPORT THE COALITION BUDGET

(Mr. PAYNE of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, if you could vote for a bill that would balance the budget in 7 years, cut the deficit faster and deeper than any plan now on the table, and achieve real budget process reforms, would you?

That's the choice every Member of this House will face tomorrow when the House votes on the Budget Reconciliation Act. We can vote for the bill that was written by the Republican leadership, or we can vote for a better plan, the substitute bill that was developed by the conservative Democratic Coalition.

It is the coalition's budget that spends less of our constituents' hardearned money over 7 years.

It is the coalition's budget that contains real budget process reforms like a line item veto that applies right now and a deficit reduction lockbox that can't be picked.

And it is the coalition's budget says its wrong to borrow money from our kids to pay for big tax cuts right now.

But that's not all, Mr. Speaker.

Because the coalition rejects tax cuts and doesn't backload its spending cuts as the Republican plan does, we are able to provide \$100 billion more for Medicare and \$100 billion more for Medicaid than their plan. And we don't slash spending for student loans and agriculture.

The conservative Democratic Coalition's budget is tough and it is fair. It's a better deal for your constituents and mine. I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

SUPPORT TAX CUTS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week in my home State of Texas the President admitted what Republicans and the American people already knew—he raised taxes too much.

Two short years ago Mr. Clinton and the Democrats raised America's taxes by \$258 billion, the largest tax increase in American history.

Republicans now want to return that money back to hardworking Americans by providing tax cuts for families, for seniors, and for America's jobcreating businesses. It is time to put the people back in charge of their wallets. Let's get government out of our pockets.

It's nice to see the President admit his own mistake. Fortunately it's not too late for him to right his wrong, he can let all Americans keep more of what they earn. Support tax cuts and sign the budget. It's good for America.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS SCORN RURAL AMERICA

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, this week we will vote on proposed budget cuts that ignore the past, disregard the present, and worse: Scorns the future, especially for rural America.

Scorn is a harsh word to use in describing the impact of Republican budget cuts on our children, but consider what these cuts will do to rural children in North Carolina.

Almost a quarter of a million needy children in North Carolina, and 4½ million nationwide will be dropped from Medicaid.

More than 60,000 North Carolina young people will be denied a summer job, 4,000 will lose Head Start, and all 129 school districts will lose money for Safe and Drug Free Schools, affecting threequarters of a million rural children.

Nutrition assistance for North Carolina children is cut by more than 20 percent, \$500 million, affecting 320,000 children.

When combined with housing cuts affecting thousands of North Carolina children, the elimination of heating assistance from 200,000 children, and the denial of child care help for 20,000 children—scorn may not be a harsh enough word—cruel and inhuman might be more appropriate choices.

HELP THE POOR BY CUTTING TAXES

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as we debate tax cuts this week, I think we should look to the example of President Reagan.

In 1981, President Reagan cut taxes, setting off the longest peacetime expansion in American history. What happened during the ensuing decade?

More than 19 million high paying jobs were created.

Real median family income increased 13 percent.

The number of Americans trapped in poverty dropped by 4 million.

The rich carried a greater percentage of the tax burden.

Now listen carefully. Of those in the bottom fifth income bracket in 1979, 65 percent jumped at least two income brackets during the 1980's. And more made it to the top income bracket than stayed in the bottom.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Do you want to help the poor? Well then, cut taxes.

FOCUS SHOULD BE ON THE CHILDREN

(Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Hubert Humphrey once said that "the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life—the sick, the needy and the handicapped."

I would like to focus on the children. In the United States today, a child is born into poverty every 30 seconds.

Yet my Republican colleagues are systematically throwing millions of lower middle class families with children into poverty.

By cutting Medicaid, school lunch programs, student loans, low income heating assistance, the earned income tax credit, Federal housing assistance, aid for families with dependent children, and education they are cutting short the hopes of the children of this country.

These cuts will push millions of children into the shadows of life, and into lives of uncertainty, insecurity, and poverty.

In the United States, every 30 seconds a baby is born into poverty. Are we now shooting for every 15 seconds?

At some point, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle must ask themselves if giving a tax break to the wealthiest Americans is worth the cost of our children.

PASSING THE RECONCILIATION BILL IS THE BEST THING CONGRESS CAN DO FOR THE AMERICAN ECONOMY AND THE POOR

(Mrs. WALDHOLTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)